

[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Our Services](#)
[Our Clients](#)
[Contact Us](#)

[illegible]

Monte Hale



MORE PAGES OF STORIES

A FAWCETT
PUBLICATION

Monte Hale WESTERN

JUNE NO. 82

10¢



A HOLSTER
OF THRILLS
WITH THE
FAMED
COWBOY OF
THE MOVIES!





REVENGE

By H. R. Symes



"THEY'LL never hang me, Mert! And when I bust out, the first thing I aim to do is come back here and put a bullet right square between your eyes!"

In his mind, Mert Mockly could hear the words as if they had just been spoken. The frame courtroom had been crowded on that hot July day, waiting for the verdict. The jury had been out only about a half-hour. When it returned, the foreman had said, "We find the prisoner, Beetle Black, guilty! Guilty of murder in the first degree!"

It was then that Beetle Black had jumped up and made his throat against Mert Mockly, for he well realized it was only Mert's eyewitness testimony that was sending him to the gallows.

Mert remembered that threat now—now that the telegraph had clicked off the message, "Beetle Black has just broken out of Territory Prison."

"He'll come after me, sure as me," said Mert.

"If he does, we'll get him, first," declared the sheriff. "I'll have good men posted guarding your shop day and night until that horned is recaptured or killed."

The lawman was as good as his word. For a week after the prison break, deputies worked around the clock watch on the little shop where Mert Mockly did business as a boot and shoe maker. Mert did his eating and sleeping in a small room behind the shop, so the deputies had only one building to guard. Taking no chances, the sheriff assigned two men for each watch, one in the front and one in the rear. And they were all picked marksmen.

Not another man in town, not even the mayor, could have gotten more consideration from the sheriff and his men. Nevertheless, Mert's hand shook a little as he fitted a boot over a last and reached for a hammer. "You're

shaking, Mert," said the sheriff. "There's nothing to be scared of. We've got this place sewed up so Beetle can't possibly get at you."

The little shoemaker smiled, but there was sadness in his eyes. "You've done all you could, Sheriff, and I'm grateful. But there's always a way for one man to kill another if he wants to badly enough. Now look through the window at that roof across the street. A man with a rifle could crouch on that roof and put a bullet right square between my eyes while I was sitting at my bench. And your guards, front and back, would never even know where the shot came from."

"Huh?" exclaimed the sheriff. He got up and strode to the window. He looked out. "That's so!" he grumbled. "Hear, I'll give you a hand. We'll move the bench out of the line of fire."

"No, we can't do that. I need the light to work by," said Mert, reaching for a nail with his quivering fingers.

The sheriff stroked his scruffy chin. "I'll post a man on the roof then. I'm sorry to see you've got the shakes like this, Mert. Hope it don't interfere with your work. After all, you're the best bootmaker in all these parts. But I don't blame you for being scared. A man like you who never packs a gun is a real setup for these sidewinders. Sure you won't let me fix you up with a Colt .44?"

Mert smiled and held his hand before him. "What could I hit with my hand shaking like this, Sheriff? No, even if my hand were steady, I couldn't shoot it out with a man like Beetle Black. I can just hope that you get him before he gets me, that's all."

"We'll do just that," said the lawman, clapping the little bootmaker heartily on the back. "You don't have to worry at all, though I don't blame you for being scared of dying. Been that way myself, many a time."

Mert looked at the broad back of the sheriff

(Continued on inside back cover)



The following outstanding magazines are easily identified
on their covers by the words A FAWCETT PUBLICATION.

CAPE MARVEL ADVENTURES • THE MARVEL FAMILY • LARK LANE WESTERN • FAWCETT'S DUNNY ANIMALS
WHITE COMICS • BATTLE STORIES • ROCKET LANE WESTERN • HYDRA THE ANGEL EYE • GARRY HARRIS WESTERN
CAPT. MARVEL JR. • MAITRI COMICS • TOM MIX WESTERN • MONTE HALE WESTERN • ROYALTY GALLERY
BUB SANDERSON WESTERN • SA-CUN WEIRD • FAWCETT MOVIE COMICS • NERF FAWCETT, MAN AGAINST CRIME
MOTION PICTURE COMICS • TEN RITTER WESTERN • SOLARIA COMICS

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines
contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment.

W. A. Fawcett, Jr., President.

MONTE HALE and the **GHOSTS** in the **NIGHT**

THE TIME HAS COME TO STRIKE!

VOICES FROM THE GHOSTS!
---WERE THEY REAL OR WERE THEY MAGNIFY? THAT'S WHAT MONTE HALE, FORMER FRONTIERMAN, HAS TO DISCOVER WHEN HE STARTS CHASING GHOSTS IN THE NIGHT!

MIDNIGHT FINDS MONTE CAMPING ON THE SHOSHONA TRAIL!

THIS BOOK WAS SO INTERESTING I FORGOT ABOUT THE TIME! I reckon I BETTER PUT OUT THE LIGHT AND GO TO SLEEP! I HAVE TO RIDE EARLY IN THE MORNING!

FASTER, HOSS! FASTER!

WHO COULD BE RIDING THE FLANK AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT?

MISS CALDER! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT SHOUTING AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS?

GHOSTS!

3

MONTE HALE WESTERN, June 1955 Vol. 54, No. 82, is published bi-monthly by Fawcett Publications, Inc., Fawcett Place, Greenwich, Conn. Entered as second-class matter Nov. 28, 1945 at the post office at Greenwich, Conn., under the act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Louisville, Ky. Copyright 1955 by Fawcett Publications, Inc. Trademarks of Fawcett Publications, Inc. Editorial and advertising offices 61 W. 44th St., N. Y. 36, N. Y. Send remittances and letters concerning subscriptions, change of address, etc., to Circulation Dept., Fawcett P., Greenwich, Conn. Subscription rate: 12 issues for \$1.50 in U. S., possessions and Canada. Foreign \$1.75 in international money order, U. S. funds or note in U. S. A.

GHOSTS? THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS! HAVE YOU GONE LOCO, RUSK?

I DON'T THINK THERE ARE SUCH THINGS, EITHER, BUT I WAS TAKING A SHORT CUT HOME FROM THE DANCE IN TOWN—

...WHICH LEADS PAST THAT OLD CAVE IN THE MOUNTAINS! SUDDENLY I HEARD VOICES COMING FROM THE CAVE!

WE'VE BEEN COOPED UP LONG ENOUGH! NOW'S THE TIME TO START THINGS ROLLING!

COOPED UP! SOUNDS AS IF THERE ARE BANDITS HIDING OUT IN THAT CAVE! BUT BANDITS DON'T PROTECT ME! I'M GOING IN AND HAVE A LOOK!

I SEARCHED THE CAVE FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, BUT I DON'T FIND A SINGLE TRACE OF A HUMAN BEING THERE! BUT THE VOICES CONTINUED!

THIS WAITING... WAITING HAS BEEN GETTING ON MY NERVES— BUT IT SHOULD PAY OFF!

GHOSTS! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

THAT CONVERSATION CERTAINLY DOESN'T SOUND AS IF IT CAME FROM GHOSTS. EVEN IF THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A THING AS GHOSTS, WHY WOULD THEY BE INTERESTED IN ANYTHING FRYING OFF? RISK IN GHOST STORIES YOU NEVER HEAR OF A GHOST HEARING MONEY!

IF YOU THINK I IMAGINED ALL THESE THINGS, WHY DON'T YOU GO CHECK FOR YOURSELF?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I AM GOING TO DO, RUSK! DO YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, WANTED TO RATHER WANT HERE! I DON'T AIM TO MIX WITH ANYTHING I CAN'T SEE!

VERY WELL, RUSK! I'LL SEE YOU LATER! NOW I'D BETTER SADDLE UP AND GET MOVING!

SHORTLY AFTER—
THE TIME HAS COME TO STRIKE!

THOSE ARE VOICES ALL RIGHT! I BETTER GO IN AND HAVE A LOOK! RUSK HERE HAVE OVERLOOKED SEARCHING SOME PART OF THE CAVE!

AFTER MAKING A THOROUGH SEARCH—

EVERYTHING RUSK SAID IS TRUE! THERE'S NO SIGN OF HUMAN BEINGS IN HERE! THOSE VOICES MUST BE COMING FROM BEHIND THE WALLS!

I'M READY TO SHOVE ON AS SOON AS YOU ARE!

IF THERE ARE HOLLOW SPOTS IN THIS WALL, I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL BY TAPPING IT! THERE MIGHT BE SOME SECRET ROOM BEHIND IT!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER---

THE WALLS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CAVE ARE SOLID ROCK! THAT LEAVES ONLY ONE OTHER POSSIBILITY---THE VOICES MIGHT BE COMING FROM UNDERNEATH!



MAYBE I'M GOING LOCO, BUT I COULD SWEAR I HEAR SOMETHING LIKE WAGON WHEELS MOVING BELOW!



THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A TRAP DOOR, BUT THIS SPOT IS SO THEN I KICKED RIGHT THROUGH IT!!



WHEW! THERE'S A TRAP DOOR HERE SOMEPLACE!



THERE'S ANOTHER CAVE BELOW!

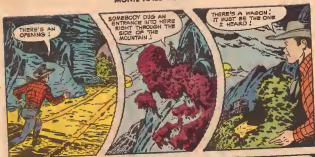


WITH NO OPENING TO THIS CAVE FROM ABOVE, HOW COULD ANYONE, WAS IN HERE HAVE GOTTEN IN? AND THAT SMELL--- SO SWEET---AND THERE'S NOTHING HERE BRING SPOCKED BY NATURE TO CAUSE IT!



THESE ARE WAGON WHEEL TRACKS! I'M NOT GOING LOCO! IF I FOLLOW THEM, MAYBE I'LL SEE HOW THEY GOT IN AND OUT OF HERE!











MONTE HALE

in THE COSTLY BARGAIN!

WELL, SHERIFF, THE CARNIVAL'S GETTING READY TO LEAVE SO I DON'T RECKON YONKE BE NEEDING MY SERVICES ANY LONGER!

THANKS FOR ACTING AS MY DEPUTY, MONTE! CARNIVAL'S ARE LOTS OF FUN, BUT THEY ALSO ATTRACT ALL THE SHADY ELEMENTS IN TOWN!

MAIN ENTRANCE

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER CORNER OF THE CARNIVAL LOT...

YUM SAID YUM WANTED TO SEE ME!

THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE BEEN WATCHING YUM FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK! THE CARNIVAL'S BEEN IN TOWN! OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CAME I HAD YUM LOOK LIKE THE GUY I COULD TRUST THE MOST! HOW WOULD YUM LIKE TO BUY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS WORTH OF GOLD FOR ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS?

WHAT'S THE CATCH?

NONE PARTNER! YUM SEE, I STOLE THIS BAG OF GOLD AND I'M AFRAID IF I TRY TO CASH IT IN SOMEONE'S LIABLE TO RECOGNIZE ME AND I'LL END UP IN THE HOODSEGION! THAT'S WHY I'M WILLING TO LET IT GO SO CHEAPLY!

IT'S A DEAL!

BUT WHEN SANDY GOES TO CASH IN THE GOLD!

I'M AFRAID THIS BAG OF GOLD ISN'T WORTH ANYTHING, SANDY!

NOT WORTH ANYTHING! WHAT DO YUM MEAN?





AND AFTER SANDY TELLS HIS STORY!



I REMEMBER SEEING THE FELLOW YOU DESCRIBED AROUND THE CARNIVAL!

YOU COULDN'T HAVE MISSED HIM IF YUH WERE TO THE CARNIVAL! HE WORKED AT ALL KINDS OF ODD JOBS AND HANDELED QUITE A FEW OF THE GAMES OF CHANCE!

AFTER I TURN YOU OVER TO THE SHERIFF I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN LOCATE THAT CARNIVAL SO I CAN CATCH UP WITH THAT CRITTER!

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! AT FIRST I WAS FRIGHTENED ABOUT BUT I RECKON IT'S NO WORSE THAN I DESERVE! IF I HAD PULLED THIS SCHEME ON SOME MEAN PERSON INSTEAD OF YOU, HE, TOO, WOULD HAVE BEEN AFRAID TO GO TO THE LAW AND THIS RACKET WOULD HAVE KEPT GOING ON FOREVER!

YOU SOUND AS IF YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON ALREADY! I'LL PUT A GOOD WORD IN FOR YOU WITH THE SHERIFF, PROVIDING I CAN FIND THAT CHARACTER YOU DESCRIBED AND I CAN PROVE THAT THE STORY YOU TOLD ME WAS TRUE!



A FEW DAYS LATER IN THE NEIGHBORING TOWN OF DANDERTON...



WELL, THERE'S THE CARNIVAL! NOW TO TIE PARTNER UP AND SEE IF I CAN LOCATE THAT CROOKED HONDER! THE SHERIFF THINKS THEY CALL HIM SHIPTY! I MUST SAY THE NAME RITS HIM!

SHORTLY AFTER...



THERE HE IS NEAR THAT THREE-FOR-A-DIME CONCESSION!



HOW'D YUH LIKE TO WIN A DOLL FOR YORE LADY FRIEND, COWBOY? ONLY TEN CENTS FOR THREE SHOTS!

NO, THANKS, BUT I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU!



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS WORTH OF GOLD FOR ONLY ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS?



GULP! THAT JASPER MUST HAVE GONE TO THE LAW AFTER ALL! I RECKON YD BETTER GET OUT OF HYAR BEFORE THIS HONDER CLAPS HANDCUFFS ON ME!



AND BEFORE MONTE HALE CAN MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE...

COME!

UGH!

Now!

THIS WILL KEEP YUH FOR AWHILE! NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE!



MONTE HALE WESTERN

--THAT REALLY INTERESTS ME IF HE WON'T PUT HIS HANDS UP AND I HAVE TO SHOOT HIM!



DON'T SHOOT! I SURRENDER!



JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HYAR?

I'LL JUST REMOVE YOUR SHOOTING IRONS SO YOU DON'T GET ANY IDEAS IN YOUR HEAD!



AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL! START WALKING!



SHERIFF, YOU CAN OPEN UP ANOTHER CELL! I'VE GOT THE CONFIDENCE MAN HERE!



OKAY, YUH TWO CAN CHANGE PLACES! I RECKON YUH LEARNED A LESSON, SANDY, SO I'LL LET YUH GO!

THANKS, SHERIFF! THANKS, MONTE! YUH'LL NEVER HAVE ANY MORE TROUBLE FROM ME!



THAT WAS A GREAT JOB, MONTE! MAYBE I CAN TALK YUH INTO TAKING BACK THAT DEPUTY BADGE!

THANKS, SHERIFF, BUT I'VE GOT WANDERING FEET! I JUST CAN'T STAY PUT IN ONE PLACE ANY TOO LONG! I'LL BE SEEING YOU!





MONTE HALE

in 'The HATEFUL WASTREL'



I'VE DONE ALL I COULD FOR YOUR FOREMAN, MR. DOONE! BUT THAT HORSE KICKED HIM SO BADLY I'M AFRAID HE HAD ONLY A FEW MINUTES TO LIVE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WHISPER, DOC! I KNOW I'M DYING! I'D LIKE TO MAKE ONE LAST REQUEST THOUGH, MR. DOONE! I'VE WORKED FOR YOU A GOOD NUMBER OF YEARS AND I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FAITHFUL! IF YOU'LL JUST ASSURE ME THAT YOU'LL LOOK AFTER MY MOTHERLESS SON, I'LL BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE!

I GIVE YOU MY WORD I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM AND CARE FOR HIM JUST AS IF HE WERE MY OWN SON!



I KNOW NO ONE CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF A MOTHER, BUT A FATHER, SAM. BUT I'LL SURE TRY!

...SOS...
...SOS...

WHAT'S UP, POP?



SAM'S FATHER JUST PASSED AWAY! I'M GOING TO TOWN NOW TO TAKE OUT FORMAL ADOPTION PAPERS! FROM NOW ON, SON, SAM WILL BE THE SAME TO YOU AS A REAL BROTHER!



...SOS... SOS... NOW MAYBE YOU'LL TREAT ME BETTER, JACKIE, SINCE I'M GOING TO BE YOUR BROTHER AND NOT JUST THE SON OF ONE OF THE HIRED HANDS!

DON'T GIVE ME ANY OF THAT BROTHER STUFF! JUST BECAUSE MY FATHER'S CRAZY ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT ADOPTION PAPERS DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE STILL THE SON OF A HIRED HAND, AND YOU STILL HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING I TELL YOU TO DO--AND DON'T FORGET IT!

AND AS THE TWO BOYS WALK ON WITH THEIR NEW JACKS NEVER LET THE UNCOMPLAINING DAD GET THE CHANCE TO REGRET IT! TONIGHT, ONE DAY!

HEY JACK, WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THE SAFE? DAD SAID NO ONE WAS TO GO NEAR IT UNTIL HE GOT BACK!

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP THAT "DAD" BUSINESS, SKIRT? HE'S NOT YOUR FATHER!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, JACK, BUT NEVER THE LESS YOUR FATHER LEFT ORDERS THAT NO ONE WAS TO OPEN THE SAFE AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO IT!

NOW I SUPPOSE THE FIRST THING YOU'LL DO WHEN MY FATHER GETS BACK IS TO GO TELL HIM WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO!



YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, JACK! THERE'S LOTS OF THINGS I COULD HAVE TOLD HIM IF I WANTED TO, BUT HE LOVES YOU SO MUCH HE CAN'T SEE ANY OF YOUR FACTS. I LOVE HIM TOO MUCH TO BREAK HIS HEART BY OPENING HIS EYES TO THE TRUTH! NOW I THINK WE BOTH BETTER GET TO WORK!

YOU GET TO WORK, HIRSH! I'M GOING TO THE GAMBLING CRAND!

BUT YOUR FATHER'S NOTE SAID HE'D BE HERE BY NOON. YOU KNOW HOW DISAPPOINTED HE'LL BE IF YOU'RE NOT HERE TO GREET HIM WHEN HE ARRIVES!

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE THEN! NOW STOP BOTHERING ME!



MEANWHILE AT THE TOWN JAIL, MONTE HALE, THE GOAT HERD OF THE WEST, VISITS WITH THE SHERIFF!

I JUST CAME FROM THE GENERAL STORE, SHERIFF! SOMEONE PASSED ANOTHER BATCH OF COUNTERFEIT BILLS ON THEM!

IDENTITY! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE WHOLE TOWN GETS BUILT UP AT ME FOR MY INEFFICIENCY! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?



I CAME HERE ON A VACATION, SHERIFF, BUT I'LL KEEP MY EYES OPEN. JUST IN CASE I SEE ANYTHING THAT WILL HELP YOU BOUND UP THOSE COUNTERFEITERS!



MEANWHILE, AS JACK MOORE WALKS TO TOWN...

HEY, THAT LOOKS LIKE OLD LOTTERY, ONE OF THE GAMBLER CHIP DRAGON'S MENCHMEN! I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING GOING INTO THAT CAVE? I RECKON IT CAN'T DO ANY HARM IF I HAVE A LOOK!





THAT LOOKS LIKE THE COUNTERFEIT MACHINE THE SHERIFF'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR! MAYBE MY LUCK IS GOING TO CHANGE!



I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE OUT THERE! I CAN'T LET HIM GET OUT OF SIGHT!



MEANWHILE, AT THE MOON SHED —
HOWDY, SON! ER, ER — HE HAD TO GO TO TOWN ON URGENT BUSINESS, DAD! BUT HE LEFT WORD THAT I WAS TO GO AFTER HIM AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVED HERE! YOU KNOW HOW ANNOYING HE IS TO ME! I'LL GO FETCH HIM!



SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE BACK ROOM OF CAMP DAWSON'S GAMBLING SALOON —

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, COTTER? I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO OUT TO THE CAFE AND RUN OFF SOME MORE COUNTERFEIT BILLS!

I KNOW, CHIP, BUT JACK DOONE DISCOVERED OUR HIDE-OUT!



WHAT? AND YOU LET HIM GET AWAY! HE'S PROBABLY AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE RIGHT NOW!

NO, HE ISN'T! I KNEW BETTER THAN TO LET HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT! I FOLLOWED HIM AND —



— WE LED ME RIGHT HERE! WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE, ROSS?

HE SEEMS TO BE MAKING THE NEXT MOVE, COTTER! HE'S HEADING THIS WAY! YOU CLIMB OUT THE BACK WINDOW AND YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO — WE DID IT ENOUGH TIMES BEFORE!

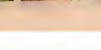


I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU, CHIP! I WANT TO PLAY ON CREDIT!

AND WHY SHOULD I GIVE YOU CREDIT, JACK?

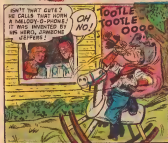






JAWBONE JEFFERS *IN* NERO'S HERO





ROB ME? HEAVENS!
I JUST REMEMBER! I LEFT
THE SAFE DOOR OPEN!



GARGLES! I MENTYVE LEFT
THE DOOR UNLOCKED! HOW
COULD I BE SO CARELESS?



WHY? THE GOLD IS STILL HERE!
NOW I'LL MAKE SURE I LOCK
THE SAFE!



BUT I STILL HAVE A BIG
PROBLEM! I DON'T WANT MY
SON TO IMAGINE THAT SOMEBODY
DEFTY, JAWBROKE! I KNOW WHAT
I'LL DO! I'LL SEND A NOTE TO
PERCE PRIDE PERCE,
THE LUMBERJACK!



A LITTLE LATER...

OOSH, GARGLES, DID
YOU REALLY LICK A
BEAR WITH YOUR
BARE HANDS?



GOLLY, I RECKON
YOU COULD LICK
MOST ANYBODY!

SON, I COULD LICK
ANYBODY WITH
ONE HAND TIED
BEHIND ME!



MONTE HALE WESTERN







MONTE HALE

and the
PRISONER of the WHEEL CHAIR

ANOTHER BULL'S-EYE
FOR YUH, MONTE!
YUH BEAT ME AGAIN!
HOW ABOUT ANOTHER
GAME?

NO THANKS, PENSING! IT LOOKS
AS IF THERE'S A STORM BLOWING
UP SO I RECKON I'D BETTER BE
SHOVING OFF! I WANT TO GET
TO FURNACE CREEK BEFORE IT
REALLY HITS!



R'S MONTE RIDES BY THROUGH THE
TOWN—

IT LOOKS LIKE A
STORM'S BLOWING UP,
PUB! I RECKON WE
OUGHT TO FIND SOME
SHELTER!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE
A MIGHTY GOOD
IDEA, HUCK! THE
FIRST PLACE YUH
SEE WHERE YUH
THINK WE CAN
STOP, LET'S
DO SO!



HEY, STRANGER! ANY
ROOMS AVAILABLE IN THIS
TOWN? WE'RE GOT TO
PUT UP FOR THE NIGHT!

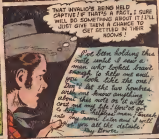
THE WELLS OF INN JUST
A FEW YARDS DOWN
THE TRAIL HAS A FEW
VACANCIES!



WE HAVE A PATIENT INSIDE!
DO YUH THINK YUH COULD GIVE
US A HAND GETTING HIM INTO
THE WHEEL CHAIR AND INSIDE
THE INN?

SURE
THING!





SHORTLY AFTER IN THE INN...





I THOUGHT YOU'D COME! THE MOMENT I SAW YOU I SAID TO MYSELF, THERE'S A REAL BRAVE HONDER!



HOLY SMOKES! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THE HANDCUFFS?

THEY'RE KEEPING ME A PRISONER HERE AGAINST MY WILL!



BUT WHY DID YOU WAIT UNTIL NOW TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT? SURELY YOU MUST HAVE SEEN OR PASSED OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE THIS! ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS YELL OUT!

IT'S NOT AS EASY AS THAT! THEY THREATENED TO SHOOT ME IF I MADE ONE FALSB MOVE! AND NOW I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY THEY SHOULD WANT TO KEEP A CRIPPLE LIKE ME PRISONER!



WELL, THE REASON IS RANDOM! I'M THE SON OF THE CATTLE KING OF THE WEST! YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF HIM--JOE BOWER! THEY'RE HOLDING ME FOR A MILLION-DOLLAR RANSOM!

EVERYBODY KNOWS WHO JOE BOWER IS! I'M GOING AFTER THOSE TWO CRITTERS!



I THINK YOU SHOULD GET ME OUT OF THESE HANDCUFFS FIRST! JUST IN CASE SOMETHING GOES WRONG I'D STILL BE LEFT HERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, RAY! LET'S SEE IF MY SKELETON KEY WILL WORK ON THOSE HANDCUFFS!



THERE! NOW I'LL DO UP THE REST OF THIS BUSINESS! THOSE TWO SCOUNDRELS WILL FIND OUT THAT KIDNAPPING DOESN'T PAY IN THESE PARTS!

I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE HOLEYHOLE FIRST JUST TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVEN'T HEARD WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN HERE AND CATCH YOU OFF GUARD AS YOU ENTER!



ALL RIGHT! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA!



UGH!

I'LL JUST PROP YOU UP IN MY HORNAL CHAIR, IN CASE THOSE HONDERERS IN THERE LOOK IN HERE. THEY'LL THINK IT'S ME!

NEW CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS
TO MONTE ...

SOMEONE HIT ME ON THE
HEAD FROM BEHIND! RAY
BOWER! HE'S GONE! I
BETTER CHECK AND SEE IF THOSE
TWO NOMBRES ARE STILL IN THAT
NEXT DOOR ROOM!



HEY, WHAT WERE
YUH DOING IN
RAY BOWER'S
ROOM?

NEVER MIND WHAT
I WERE DOING IN
THERE! WHERE
IS HE?

WHAT DO
YUH MEAN,
WHAT IS HE?



GULP!
HE'S ESCAPED
AGAIN!

HOW COULD
A CRIPPLE
ESCAPE?



RAY BOWER'S
NO MORE A
CRIPPLE THAN
YUH OR I!

NO? THEN
WHAT WERE HE
DOING IN A
WHEEL CHAIR?



HE USES A WHEEL CHAIR
BECAUSE HE'S LEOO! THAT'S
WHY WE HANDICAPPED HIM TO
IT ---SO HE COULDN'T RUN
AWAY OR INJURE ANYONE
WHILE OUR BACKS WERE
TURNED!



RAY
BOWER
INSANE?

THAT'S RIGHT! RAY REALLY
BELONGS IN A BOOBY
HATCH, BUT HIS FATHER'S
AFRAID THAT HE'D BE DIS-
GRACED IF HE PUT HIS SON
INTO AN INSTITUTION, SO
HE KEEPS HIM LOCKED UP
ON THE RANCH INSTEAD!



EVERY TIME HE
ESCAPES HUCK AND
I HAVE TO GO
AFTER HIM!

WE JUST CRUGHT
HIM AGAIN AND WE
WERE ON OUR WAY
BACK TO THE
RANCH!

IF YOU TWO ARE
TELLING THE TRUTH,
THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN
RAY BOWER WHO
KNOCKED ME OUT!



IT'S THE TRUTH
ALL RIGHT! YUH
CAN CHECK WITH
HIS FATHER!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT
NOW! IF HE'S AS DANGEROUS
AS YOU TWO HAVE INDICATED,
THEN WE'RE GOT TO CATCH HIM
PRONTO! IF HE SHOULD DO ANY
HARM, I'D PERSONALLY FEEL
RESPONSIBLE SINCE I FREED
HIM!







MONTE HALE WESTERN



HOPALONG CASSIDY

starring William Boyd

HISTORY'S GREATEST COWBOY

READ HIS SENSATIONAL ADVENTURES EVERY MONTH!

10¢ ON NEWSSTANDS EVERYWHERE 10¢



Revenge

(Continued from inside front cover)

going out the door. Mert shook his head. He thought, "He just doesn't understand. I'm not scared of dying. That's not it at all!"

After he had received the telegraph message, the sheriff went directly to Mert Meekly's shop. The lawman was all smiles. "We can send the deputies home now and you don't have to worry about a thing," he said. "I just got a telegraph report. After Beetle Black busted out of jail he headed straight for the border. He's in Mexico now, and he sure won't ever try to come back here. You're safe now, Mert."

"Glad to hear that," said Mert. "My nervousness this past week has slowed down my work considerably. I'll have to work late to-night to catch up."

It was late in the black night, and Mert was bent over his last shoe in the yellow light of an oil lamp when he heard the familiar voice: "I promised to put a bullet between your eyes, Mister. Look up so I can tend to my job."

Mert looked up to see a six-gun. And Beetle Black was behind it!

"They told me you were in Mexico," said Mert.

"Sure," said Beetle, laughing nastily. "I the one who sent that wire to the sheriff about me. I had to kill a telegrapher to do it. Pretty clever, huh?"

Mert was pale and his hands were shaking. He did not reply. Beetle Black laughed again. "Glad, I see you are scared to death. After I finish you off, it'll be a long time before anybody tries to get me again—or against any other good gunman."

"I'm afraid you're right," said Mert, his teeth chattering.

The killer was enjoying this. He was reluctant to put it all to an end. Besides, he realized that Mert was the best bootmaker in the whole territory. He said, "You've caused me a lot of trouble, little man. The least you can do before you die is to outfit me with new

boots. The ones I've got are pretty old and scuffed. I want a new pair, pronto!"

With a gun pressed against his head, Mert was forced to remove the old boots from the outlaw. Then, with the gun still following his every movement, he brought a fancy pair from a shelf. He put them on the killer's feet. "They're pretty, but they pinch a little," said Beetle.

"I'll stretch them," snarled Mert.

He went to his bench and worked on the boots. He prodded and hammered them. All of the while he was under the gun of the killer. He was never sure whether he'd take the bullet in his chest or in his back. Then he brought the fancy boots back and humbly slid them onto the feet of Beetle. Sitting, Beetle aimed his gun at Mert's knee. "This is luxury—killing a man sitting down!"

"Before you pull the trigger, you ought to try the boots," said Mert. "If they're not just right, I can fix them before I die."

"You are a funny gent," said Beetle. "So you want to be sure my boots are all right before I kill you? I'll stand up and walk around."

Beetle stood up. He yelled, "Ow!" and jumped. In that instant he forgot to point his gun. Mert jumped forward and tapped the murderer's head with his hammer. Beetle sagged to the floor.

WHEN the sheriff arrived, he first locked handcuffs on the unconscious Beetle. Then he said, "Mert, for a man who was scared of his life, you sure acted smart. Putting those nails in the soles of his new boots was downright brassy. But generally a coward—uh, excuse me, a houndst who is scared—is too frightened to think."

Mert said, "Sheila, I don't expect you or anybody to believe this, but I was never afraid for my own life. I was afraid that if this murderer got me it would discourage all honest citizens from ever appearing as witnesses at a trial. That's what gave me the shakes. Now put this killer in a real, strong cell, will you?"

THE END

MR. MULLIGAN

Plan No. 274 50¢

A perfectly proportioned plane for control line work, features loads and top performance. Full size plans and photos.



MAKE 'EM AND FLY 'EM WITH

MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED PLANS

Send 50¢ for each plan wanted (don't forget the number) to MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED Plans Service, Greenwich, Conn. If you also want a copy of MI's new, Illustrated catalog describing 181 plans for furniture, models, photographic and shop equipment and many other projects, send along an extra dime and ask for a Plans Catalog.



SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS

Plan No. 10 50¢

A superb true scale model of Lindbergh's famous plane. Full size easy-to-do plans.



PYLON BUSTER

Plan No. 202 50¢

Free Flight Class C control winner. Timer-mechanism permits adjustment for climb and glide. This model has 92 inch span.

PBY CATALINA

Plan No. 434 50¢

A superb model of the famous flying boat. Two-engine model can be quickly converted from land to water use.



NIEUPORT SCOUT

Plan No. 209 50¢

Scout flyer patterned after World War I fighter. Full plans contain exploded drawings and fine detailed views.

